



Shamag



BSU Marks 40th Charter Anniversary with Campus and Community Activities

Marking four decades since its elevation from Mountain State Agricultural College, Benguet State University observed its 40th Charter Anniversary through a series of activities that highlighted the institution’s milestones, community partnerships, and initiatives aligned with sustainable development.

The festivities kicked off on January 10 with a marathon led by VP for Administration and Finance Richard H. Kinnud. Spanning 3K to 42K categories, the race saw BSU executives joining the 12K and 5K runs, supported by Local Government Units and National Line Agencies.

The momentum continued on January 14 as the College of Human Kinetics led employees in recreational sports including pickleball, slow-pitch softball, and badminton, as well as the Laro ng Lahi organized by the Supreme Student Government of BSU La Trinidad.

The heart of the week fell on January 12, commemorating the university’s 1986 elevation from Mountain State Agricultural College (MSAC). A grand parade led into an Ecumenical

Thanksgiving Service, where Rev. Esther Kayat Balawag urged the community to stay connected to the Creator for the university’s future. The service was followed by the Charter Anniversary Program where President Kenneth A. Laruan and the Board of Regents presented the PRAISE Awards, honoring employees and retirees for their government service, including recognition for long-term loyalty and outgoing BSU officials. The ceremony also recognized former CHED Commissioner Marita R. Canapi for her service as BSU BOR Chairperson from 2022 to 2025.

University President Kenneth A. Laruan described BSU as a center of knowledge that has supported generations and sustainable development. He attributed the university’s 2025 achievements to the BSU community, including regents, faculty

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Shamag, first published in 1996, is the official newsletter of Benguet State University. It was named after the Ibaloi word for news. It is one of the platforms for BSU to disseminate the programs, achievements and advocacies to its stakeholders. *Shamag* aims to help the University advance its goals by championing effective communication and partnerships.

Articles, pictures, comments, suggestions, reactions, and letters to the Editor may be submitted to the BSU-Public Affairs Office at publicaffairs@bsu.edu.ph. However, the *Shamag* staff reserves the right to edit submitted materials for mechanics and ethics. The *Shamag* is guided by the Associated Press (AP) style and journalistic standards.

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BSU VMGO

BSU BOR RESOLUTION No. 183, s. 2025

VISION: A premier university in



transformative
 education,



innovative
 research,



inclusive
 extension,



sustainable
 development,



and stewardship
 of culture and the
 environment

MISSION

Cultivate resilient and future-ready human capital through excellent teaching, responsive research, proactive and sustainable community engagements, strategic partnerships, and progressive leadership

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

GOAL 1 (Instruction) Ensure equity in accessing quality higher education

Objectives

- Formulate and implement affirmative action policies aligned with Free Higher Education
- Sustain enrollment of disadvantaged students
- Sustain grants and scholarships for undergraduate and graduate studies students
- Develop learning continuity and student affairs services plan
- Implement inclusive education strategies for diverse learners
- Sustain optimal enrollment in all degree programs

GOAL 2 (Instruction) Advance quality and relevant instruction to boost regional economies

Objectives

- Enhance instruction through a supportive and innovative environment
- Continuously improve tertiary and advanced education standards

GOAL 3 (Research) Develop gender and culture-sensitive solutions, innovative and transformative research and technologies to reduce regional vulnerabilities and boost socio-economic activities

Objectives

- Strengthen policies, culture, linkages, and support for research and development
- Advance scholarly capabilities of faculty and staff through research-driven initiatives and activities

GOAL 4 (Extension) Develop proactive extension programs to sustain livable and resilient communities prioritizing disadvantaged areas and vulnerable sectors

Objectives

- Enhance extension system environment for effective community development
- Build capacity among extension service providers
- Implement culturally-relevant and gender-sensitive engagement programs
- Expand reach and inclusivity of extension initiatives
- Evaluate and amplify the impact of extension programs and projects

GOAL 5 (Administration and Finance) Promote integrity-based governance and efficient management of resources

Objectives

- Develop human resource capabilities
- Cultivate a culture of good governance and resource stewardship
- Develop smart and green campus solutions
- Establish sound financial policies and systems

GOAL 6 (Business Affairs) Balance progressive resource development while maintaining existing biophysical resources

Objectives

- Foster a supportive ecosystem for entrepreneurial ventures
- Create strategic and socially-responsible business partnerships
- Strengthen capabilities in revenue-generating activities
- Optimize existing income sources
- Pursue green enterprises and growth opportunities

GOAL 7 Strengthening and expanding strategic partnerships

Objectives

- Build a dynamic and enabling environment for partnerships
- Deepen engagement with alumni, government, and civil society
- Strengthen multi-sectoral collaboration among academe, LGUs, industries, and communities

BSU GRADUATE ATTRIBUTES

BSU BOR RESOLUTION No. 304, s. 2025



BSU CORE VALUES: Integrity, Resilience, Innovation, Stewardship, Service, and Excellence

BSU BOR RESOLUTION No. 304, s. 2025

Shaping Minds, Transforming Communities, Shaping Futures

Quality Policy

Benguet State University is continuously committed to improve its Quality Management System, satisfy requirements of relevant interested parties and provide excellent service for quality education and innovative research aligned with sustainable development and client satisfaction.

Board Resolution # 2847 S.2016



Ba'diw ya Binnadang: a forum to advance dialogue on Sustainable Development

Benguet State University convened academic leaders, government representatives, and students for the first Ba'diw ya Binnadang for Sustainable Development: A Dialogue for Unity, from January 14 to 16, 2026 explored key issues aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In the spirit of Ba'diw (our sacred oral tradition) and Binnadang (our culture of communal unity), the university leadership and invited resource speakers from various government and non-government entities gathered to discuss collective paths towards a sustainable and inclusive future. The three-day forum supported the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and celebrated BSU's 40th Charter Anniversary.

On the first day of the forum (January 13, 2026), meaningful discussions on SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being) and SDG 4 (Quality Education) reaffirmed BSU's commitment to equitable, lifelong learning and promoting wellness.

In the morning session, incidences of major communicable diseases, HIV, and mental health were discussed by Dr. Rhoda Lynn O. Fajardo and Dr. Donnabel Tubera Panes of the Department of Health-CAR, and Ricky Ducas Jr. of the City Health Services Office-Baguió. Relevant skills, infrastructure and resources, outcomes, inclusion, and scholarship were discussed by Engr. Glenn M. Murphy of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority-CAR, Jennifer O. Ande



"We need to have a change in direction, from viewing disease as something scary, filled with fear and isolation, to seeing it as a manageable health condition where treatment and support are readily accessible. We should normalize health-seeking behavior and implement strict confidentiality protocols for the cases."

DR. RHODA LYNN O. FAJARDO
Department of Health-CAR

"Corruption is not just about our stolen money, but it is about our stolen trust. In conflicted affected areas, it leads to broken promises, unfair systems, and communities that feel abandoned."

ANGELIKA B. SERVINAS
Ms. Benguet 2025



of the Department of Education-CAR, Joeference S. Yangyang of the Commission on Higher Education-CAR, and Allan R. Yao of the Department of Information and Communications Technology-CAR.

The session emphasized BSU's continuous efforts to improve its infrastructure, policies, and resources to ensure accessible and quality education for all, while also engaging students through an interactive question-and-answer segment that enriched understanding and participation and call to action.

The second day of the forum, held on January 15, 2026, the discussions revolved around SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) and SDG 13 (Climate Action). The issues that surfaced included employment and labor conditions, social protection, resilience to climate-related disasters, integrating climate change into policies, improving education and capacity, and providing financial support.

The morning session discussants on SDG 8 were Allyson M. Locano of the Civil Service Commission-Benguet Field Office, Ricardo A. Bayao of the People Management Association of the Philippines Baguió-Benguet Chapter,



Partnerships for the Goals

Benguet State University advanced its mission this January 2026 by securing key partnerships with DICT, Pag-IBIG, SSS, and Siloam College, enhancing digital literacy, educational access, and financial security for its community.

Boosting Digital Skills and ICT Access

On January 12, 2026, the BSU-College of Information Sciences –Department of Information Technology signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Information and Communications Technology-CAR. The partnership strengthens both organizations' cooperation in ICT awareness, digital literacy, and skills development. It also provides BSU faculty, students, and stakeholders with access to DICT trainings and technologies.

The MOU was signed by University President Kenneth A. Laruan and DICT-CAR Regional Director Jimmicio S. Daoaten. Present during the signing were VP for Academic Affairs Janet P. Pablo, University and Board Secretary Lynn J. Talkasen, CIS Dean Grace D. Quijano, DIT Chairperson Maria Teresa T. Cachero, faculty member Frevy T. Orenca, and BSU Information and Communications Technology Division Director Paul G. Garcia, along with DICT staff.



BSU and DICT-CAR officials pose after signing a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen collaboration in ICT programs and digital skills development

Strengthening Employee Savings and Financial Stability

BSU formalized a partnership with the Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF) Pag-IBIG Fund on January 20, 2026 through a Memorandum of Agreement designed to provide a reliable savings system for BSU's job order and contract of service workers. This initiative complies with the Republic Act of 2009, also known as the Home Development Mutual Fund Law of 2009.

The agreement was signed by BSU President Kenneth A. Laruan, VP for Administration and Finance Richard H. Kinnud, and Finance Pag-IBIG Fund Baguio City Branch Head Philip Raymund S. Salem. Witnesses included Compensation, Benefits, and Other Obligation Office (CBOO) Director Susan P. Buasen-Ocasen, Human Resource Management Office Supervising Administrative Officer Raymundo H. Pawid Jr., Office for Legal Affairs Chief Reynante B. Basco, CBOO staff, and Pag-IBIG Baguio City Branch personnel.



BSU and Pag-IBIG Fund officials after signing a Memorandum of Agreement establishing a savings program for job order and contract of service workers

Expanding NSTP Access Through Partnership

BSU sealed a partnership with Siloam College Incorporated through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the National Service Training Program (NSTP) on January 29, 2026 at the Office of the University President. The five-year agreement assigns Siloam College the responsibility of informing students about NSTP requirements, providing enrollment documentation, cooperating on program implementation and monitoring, ensuring compliance with admission policies, and covering logistics, administrative costs, and student fees.

BSU will deliver NSTP programs, training opportunities,

Partnerships ...continued on page 5



BSU and Siloam College officials pose after signing a MOA for a five-year partnership on the implementation of the National Service Training Program (NSTP)

Innovation Milestone: BSU registers first Industrial Designs



BSU marked a new era of research protection in 2025, registering 17 utility models and its first two industrial designs through the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHL).

This milestone was presented by Diana P. Villena and Cynthia Garambas of the Intellectual Property Management Office (IPMO) during the January 19 Flag Ceremony. These registrations signify BSU’s growing capability to protect not just functional inventions, but also aesthetic and commercial designs. The ceremony also honored top copyright filers, emphasizing the university's commitment to transforming faculty and student research into legally protected assets.//



BSU and SSS officials pose holding the signed MOA formalizing their partnership to enhance social security benefits and services for university personnel and stakeholders

qualified instructors, learning materials, and campus venues at no additional fee, covering trainer honoraria, teaching aids, and materials, while assisting with government or partner support when applicable.

BSU Inks Partnerships with Social Security Services

BSU and Social Security System (SSS) officials signed a Memorandum of Agreement on January 26, 2026. The MOA, approved by the BSU Board of Regents under Board Resolution No. 418, S. 2025, dated December 19, 2025, aims to enhance social security benefits and services for BSU personnel and stakeholders.

The agreement was signed by BSU President Kenneth Laruan, VP for Administration and Finance Richard H. Kinnud, Luzon North 1 Division VP Normita M. Cruz, La Trinidad Branch Dominador G. Malatag, and AMS La Trinidad Section Rudy D. Limmayong. Director Susan P. Buasen-Ocasen of Compensation, Benefits, and Other Obligation Office (CBOO), with CBOO staff and SSS personnel, witnessed the signing.

P.Gadang, D.Paydowan, E.Bawang

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non-teaching staff, students, alumni, and partners, and urged continued collaboration for innovation and positive change.

One of the highlights of the event was the Productivity, Results, and Innovations for Service Excellence (PRAISE) Awards, which recognized employees and retirees for their government service. Samuel P. Reyes, who received a 35-year Loyalty Award, spoke on behalf of the honorees and retirees. He highlighted the importance of their milestones and encouraged the community to follow their example of dedication.

Former CHED Commissioner Marita R. Canapi received the Kayabang Award for her service as BSU Board of Regents Chairperson from 2022 to 2025. Canapi thanked the university for the recognition and described the anniversary as a milestone of shared efforts since the university's transition to full status in 1986. Canapi congratulated the other awardees and those who helped BSU achieve Level 4 SUC status through instruction, research, extension, and innovation. She highlighted the university's response to disasters and pandemics, calling it the “Kayabang of the North” for its work in excellence, internationalization, and sustainable development. She pledged her continued support after her term ends and urged the BSU community to build on its 40-year legacy.

Intellectual and environmental engagement remained central to the week's theme. The university launched the inaugural Ba’di’w ya Binnadang for Sustainable Development Forum (Jan 14–16), where leaders from CHED, DOLE, TESDA, and DICT joined student leaders to discuss the future of education, labor, and climate action.

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BSU is the Kayabang of the North for its work in excellence, internationalization and sustainable development.

HON. MARITA R. CANAPI
*Former CHED Commissioner,
Former Chair of the BSU Board of Regents,
BSU Kayabang Awardee*



BSU and the communities



BSU and SOCODEVI Partner to Improve Coffee Nursery Standards

BSU, through the Institute of Highland Farming Systems and Agroforestry, hosted a two-day seminar on January 27–28, 2026, titled “Improving Nursery Practices for High-Quality Coffee Seedling Production” under Agsama Kape, organized by the Société de Coopération pour le Développement International (SOCODEVI) Philippines

The activity aimed to strengthen the technical and managerial capabilities of nursery technicians across the stages of seedling development, monitoring,

and management. Participants included representatives from Kalinga State University, BSU, Department of Agriculture–Cordillera Administrative Region (DA-CAR), DA Region 2, Department of Trade and Industry–CAR, Cooperative Development Authority–CAR, and lead cooperatives under Agsama Kape.

The activity featured resource speakers who talked about coffee nursery management and quality seedling production. France Isabelle and Cynthia

Lemelin of SOCODEVI Canada discussed baseline assessment and problem identification, as well as potting media preparation and sterilization.

Ma. Arlene F. Celo of the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI)–Baguio National Crop Research Development and Production Support Center shared insights on coffee nursery management for high-quality coffee seedling production.

  D. Paydawan

IHFSA Supports 40th Charter Anniversary with Coffee Picking Activity

Benguet State University–Institute of Highland Farming Systems and Agroforestry (BSU-IHFSA) organized a coffee picking activity titled “Forty Years of Harvest: Arabica Coffee Berry Picking” on January 22, 2026.

The activity supported the university’s 40th Charter Anniversary celebration by highlighting sustainable agriculture and community involvement, aligning with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2 (Zero Hunger), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), and 15 (Life on Land).

Employees from various offices and students from the College of Agriculture took part in the activity. IHFSA Director Christopher P. Deponio and Farm Supervisor Vecker Tero provided a brief orientation upon the participants’ arrival before guiding them to the picking site.

  E. Bawang.





BSU and NCIP holds beekeeping training

The Cordillera Regional Apiculture Center in collaboration with the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), held a Basic Beekeeping Training on January 28-30, 2026. There were 44 participants from Indigenous communities of Region I, Region III, and the Cordillera Administrative Region.

The opening program began with a warm welcome from University President Kenneth A. Laruan, who encouraged participants to actively engage in the sessions. VP for Research and Extension Roscinto Ian C. Lumbres highlighted the NCIP–BSU partnership, while NCIP Executive Director Mervyn H. Espadero emphasized the importance of capacity building and thanked BSU-CRAC and partners for their support.


In a recorded message, NCIP Chairperson Marie Grace T. Pascua highlighted the role of bees in ecological balance and agriculture, noting that the project promotes cooperation,

environmental stewardship, and community empowerment through beekeeping and nature-based enterprises.



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Simultaneously, the campus grew greener as the GSO and International Relations Office conducted tree-planting activities, adding fruit-bearing trees like citrus and guyabano to the landscape. On the student front, the Office of Student Services and Psychology volunteers held career coaching sessions for Laboratory School students, ensuring the university’s legacy is passed on to the next generation.

As the 40th Charter Week ends, BSU stands not just as a historical institution, but as a proactive leader ready to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing global landscape. 

Ba'diw...from page 3

Gerson L. Malonzo of UPGB Savings Bank, and Marcelo Saleo-an, Jr. of the Department of Labor and Employment Baguio-Benguet Field Office.

Their perspectives revolve around the importance of quality employment, skills development, employment protection, and sustainable job creation.

Recognizing the youth as the backbone of the economy, the speakers accentuated strong working ethics and lifelong learning as key foundations for future workers.

Moreover, an interactive question-and-answer session followed, which allowed students to engage directly with the speakers on career preparation and workplace realities.

The afternoon session on SDG 13 brought together experts and advocates for environmental sustainability, namely Nova D. Doyog, Romeo A. Gomez, and Roscinto Ian C. Lumbres, who shared

their knowledge and insights to inform and inspire students to become active catalysts of change for climate action.

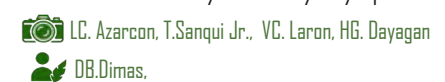
Through the dialogue, the participants were urged to protect the environment, not just an institutional responsibility, but a shared duty of students, faculty members, and stakeholders alike towards a sustainable BSU.

The last day of the forum on January 16, 2026 brought about a fruitful discussion on SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions). The speakers and participants talked about anti-corrupt practices, accountability and transparency, and representative decision-making. An interactive exchange happened between the student-participants and the speakers namely Atty. Cheryl L. Daytec-Yangot of the Department of Migrant Workers Regional Office-CAR, Genevieve Balance Kupang

of the Baguio Central University, Mr. Benguet 2025 Kyle Kimayong, and Ms. Benguet 2025 Angelika Servinas. Their insights connected global principles of peace and justice to local realities, which encouraged students to realize that real change begins within ourselves and our communities.

Throughout the discussion, students were challenged to go beyond awareness and take action. The speakers emphasized that peacebuilding, justice, and strong institutions are collective responsibilities. Small actions, when shared, can create lasting impact.

As the dialogue ended, BSU called on its academic community to turn learning into action by practicing ethical leadership, promoting inclusion, intervening in social issues, and standing for accountability in everyday spaces.



Bon-as brings home SEA Games gold medal

Zyra Bon-as, a third year student of the College of Human Kinetics was recognized on January 26, 2026, after the Flag Ceremony, for her historic gold-medal win at the 33rd Southeast Asian (SEA) Games in Thailand on December 2025.

Bon-as secured the top spot in the Women's 48 kg. Low Kick category. She notably defeated Thailand's hometown favorite and Muay Thai champion Jantakarn Manoban in the finals. Along with Bon-as, the BSU Arnis team was also recognized for their strong showing in the PEKAF Luzon Qualifying Tournament, where several student-athletes secured slots for the national finals. 📷👤 E. Bawang.



BSU Christmas Lights Retreat Highlights Unity

Benguet State University concluded its 2025 Christmas celebration on January 26, 2026, with the theme "Carrying the Light Beyond the Season," emphasizing unity, hope, and service. University officials noted that while festive lights fade, their meaning endures, guiding the community's mission. Speakers described light as a symbol of responsibility, resilience, and collective progress beyond the holidays.

A candle-lighting ceremony highlighted strength, vulnerability, and unity, with participants exchanging candles as a gesture of reconciliation and gratitude. Leaders emphasized bayanihan, hope, and gratitude as core values, marking the celebration as a transition toward renewed purpose and continued institutional growth in 2026 and beyond.

📷👤 E. Bawang.